01061

1963/11/01

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

19

43-41

~~SECRET~~

Action
FE

Control: 138
Rec'd: NOVEMBER 1, 1963
5:11 A.M.

Info
SS
G
INR
RMR

FROM: SAIGON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 86Ø, NOVEMBER 1, 6 P.M.

FLASH

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

AT 4:3Ø A TELEPHONE CALL FROM PRESIDENT DIEM AND THE FOLLOWING CONVERSATION OCCURRED:

DIEM: SOME UNITS HAVE MADE A REBELLION AND I WANT TO KNOW: WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S.?

LODGE: I DO NOT FEEL WELL ENOUGH INFORMED TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU. I HAVE HEARD THE SHOOTING, BUT AM NOT ACQUAINTED WITH ALL THE FACTS. ALSO IT IS 4:3Ø A.M. IN WASHINGTON AND U.S. GOVERNMENT CANNOT POSSIBLY HAVE A VIEW.

DIEM: BUT YOU MUST HAVE SOME GENERAL IDEAS. AFTER ALL, I AM A CHIEF OF STATE. I HAVE TRIED TO DO MY DUTY. I WANT TO DO NOW WHAT DUTY AND GOOD SENSE REQUIRE. I BELIEVE IN DUTY ABOVE ALL.

LODGE: YOU HAVE CERTAINLY DONE YOUR DUTY. AS I TOLD YOU ONLY THIS MORNING, I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE AND YOUR GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR COUNTRY. NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY FROM YOU THE CREDIT FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE. NOW I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PHYSICAL SAFETY. I HAVE A REPORT THAT THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE CURRENT ACTIVITY OFFER YOU AND YOUR BROTHER SAFE CONDUCT OUT OF THE COUNTRY IF YOU RESIGN. HAD YOU HEARD THIS?

DIEM: NO. (AND THEN AFTER A PAUSE) YOU HAVE MY TELEPHONE NUMBER.

LODGE: YES. IF I CAN DO ANYTHING FOR YOUR PHYSICAL SAFETY, PLEASE CALL ME.

DIEM: I AM TRYING TO RE-ESTABLISH ORDER. GP-1.

LODGE

DECLASSIFIED
Dept of State (NLK-82-119)
By NARS, Date 11/18/82

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MM/27

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 11/1/63, 5:14 A.M.
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, OSD, CIA, 11/1/63, 5:31 A.M.

~~SECRET~~